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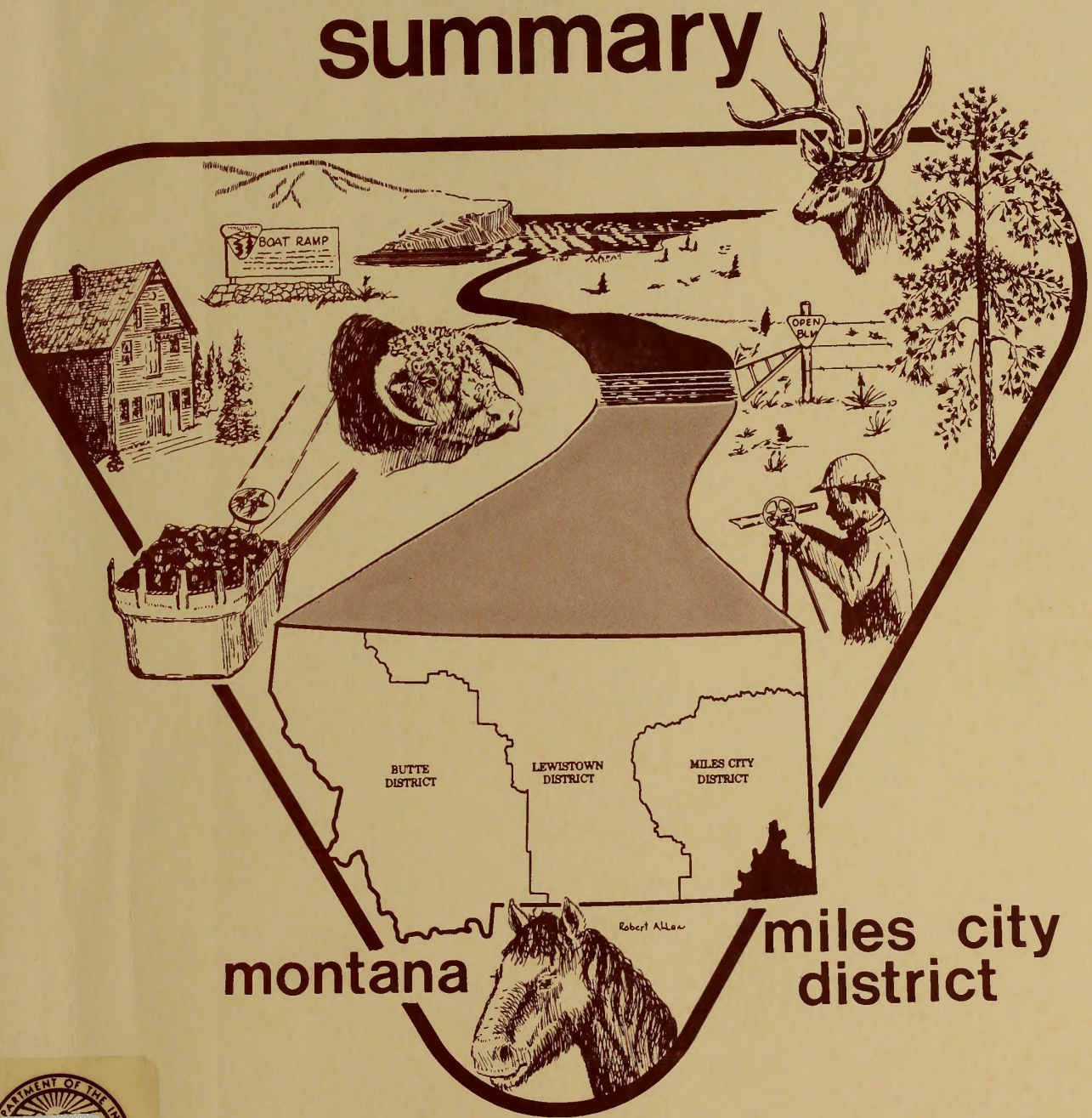
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

summary



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

Box Elder Planning Unit

September 1977

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Preface

The Bureau of Land Management's Montana State organization manages resources on almost 8.4 million acres of surface land and 55 million acres of subsurface minerals in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The Miles City BLM District Office is responsible for more than 3.5 million surface and 12.6 million subsurface acres. These public lands are used by many people for a variety of activities. It is BLM's responsibility to develop coordinated land use allocations specifying the guidelines, constraints, and criteria for the utilization or protection of the public's resources.

To better prepare for present and future demands on public lands, BLM has developed land use plans for many areas of the state. This pamphlet contains a summary of the land use decisions for the public lands in the Box Elder Planning Unit covering approximately 178,700 surface and 1.2 million subsurface acres in Carter, Powder River, and Custer Counties.

These decisions were made after gathering all available resource data and obtaining the viewpoints of local citizens and the user public. This information, as well as the technical expertise of BLM resource specialists, was combined, analyzed, and considered in formulating the land use decisions outlined on the following pages. By design, these decisions are flexible so they can deal with new demands or new conditions that may arise. They will be updated or revised as necessary to help keep this Management Framework Plan current and effective. Any major changes in this plan will be subject to public review and comment.

In the interest of clarity and brevity, this report is a summary document of the total planning process. The planning effort was made from 1970-1973 for the Box Elder Planning Unit. Specific information materials not included in this report are detailed maps, detailed physical and resource inventory data, and social and economic data. These materials, as well as the other components of BLM's land use planning process, are available for public review during regular business hours at the Miles City District Office. If you wish to review these documents, please make an appointment so we can have someone available to discuss them with you.

My staff and I thank everyone who assisted in this effort, especially those who attended our public meetings and contributed to the final product. We look forward to working with you again in formulating similar plans or updating older plans as the need arises.

George S. Neuberg
District Manager

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Introduction

A. BLM Planning System

Under the Bureau's planning system, available information is gathered, studies are made, and management decisions are developed in seven categories. These categories are lands, minerals, timber, range, watershed, wildlife habitat, and recreation. In order to meet the needs of its diverse public users, BLM must effectively balance the management of these resources. Under the concept of multiple use management, all potential uses of the public's resources are equally considered and evaluated before a management framework plan (MFP) is developed and implemented.

The Bureau of Land Management has developed its land use planning system with three major components:

Program Direction
Resource Information
Management Decisions

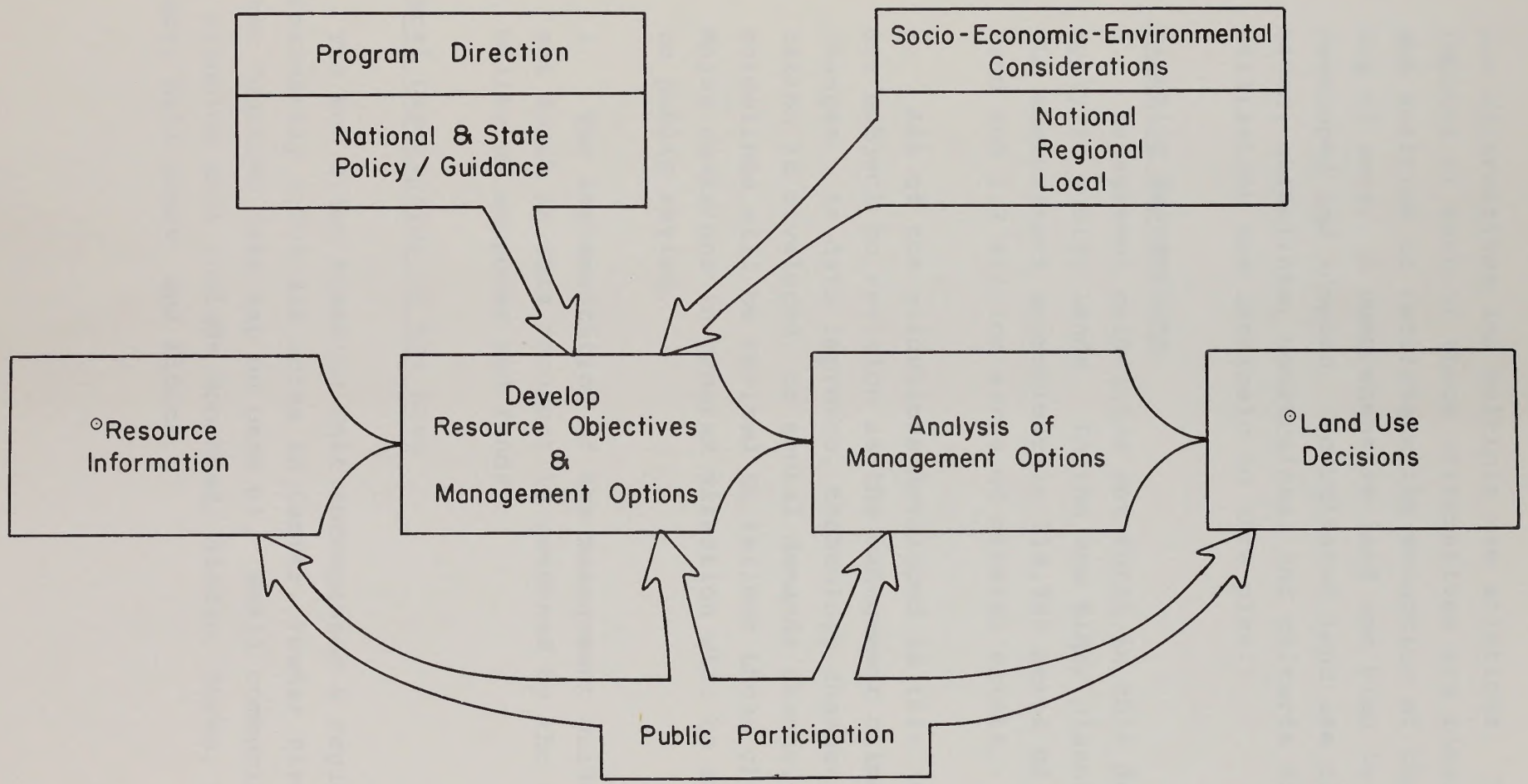
1. Program Direction. General program direction, policies, goals, and priorities are set by the President, Congress, and the Secretary of the Interior. These directions are expressed in executive orders, laws, regulations, and other documents.

2. Resource Information. In initiating this phase of the planning system, BLM specialists gather all of the necessary land and resource information relative to the region under study. Each resource specialist--the forester, range conservationist, minerals specialist, watershed specialist, etc.--analyzes the situation

within the planning unit area to determine current condition, use, trends, and problems concerning his resource responsibility. This analysis is further developed to identify maximum potential for the resource use without consideration of competing or conflicting uses. The importance of this step is that each resource potential is considered individually. In addition, socio-economic data is gathered and analyzed and an ecological profile is prepared to facilitate the evaluation of land use alternatives generated by the planning system. In compiling the above information, the Bureau contacts traditional, as well as new interests, to be certain that all available data has been obtained before the planning process is completed.

3. Management Decisions. The next phase of the planning system is designed to resolve resource use conflicts and to provide basic guidelines for the use and management of the public lands being analyzed. This is the heart of the planning system. At this stage, each resource specialist prepares objectives and outlines specific proposals for the optimum use of his resource based on current technology, program directions, and the socio-economic needs of the region. Each individual resource proposal is then fully documented and individually presented utilizing a map and overlay system. At this point, conflicts between various resource proposals and possible multiple use solutions are identified through careful analysis and utilization of narratives, maps, and overlays. Based on comments and information received through public participation, BLM managers are often able to develop additional land

B.L.M. PLANNING SYSTEM



⊙Lands
⊙Minerals
⊙Range
⊙Recreation
⊙Watersheds
⊙Timber
⊙Wildlife

B. BLM Planning System Flowchart

use alternatives and multiple use solutions. The impacts of each of these alternatives are identified and analyzed to facilitate the selection of the best mix of uses. A comprehensive land use plan is then developed and adopted. Coordinated land use allocations, guidelines, constraints, and criteria for utilization are intrinsic to this plan.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. Management guidelines set forth in this document apply to public lands. In the Box Elder planning area, BLM administers approximately 718,700 acres of surface land and 1.2 million acres of mineral estate.

2. All of the guidelines developed in this analysis are subject to revision as the management climate changes. As data improves, technology changes, legislation is developed, or social demands change, these guidelines will be revised to reflect those changes. Major revisions in program direction will be subject to public review.

3. The implementation of the management guidelines set forth in this document is governed by the availability of manpower and funds.

General Description of the Area

The Box Elder Planning Unit encompasses a region of approximately 2,509,300 acres in Carter, Powder River, and Custer Counties (see map on page 6). Small communities in the planning unit include Moorhead, Biddle, Boyes, Hammond, Alzada, Bell Creek, and Albion.

The most dominant and important physical features include the Powder River, Little Missouri River, and Box Elder Creek. Numerous drainages dissect the area creating interstream uplands and gently rolling plateaus. The Lone Pines Division of the Custer National Forest is located adjacent to the north end of the planning unit.

Ranching is the major contributor to the area economy.

The surface ownership of the planning unit is predominantly private with scattered large tracts of public lands. Approximately 50% of the subsurface estate is in federal ownership.*

OWNERSHIP AND ACREAGE STATISTICS

ACRES

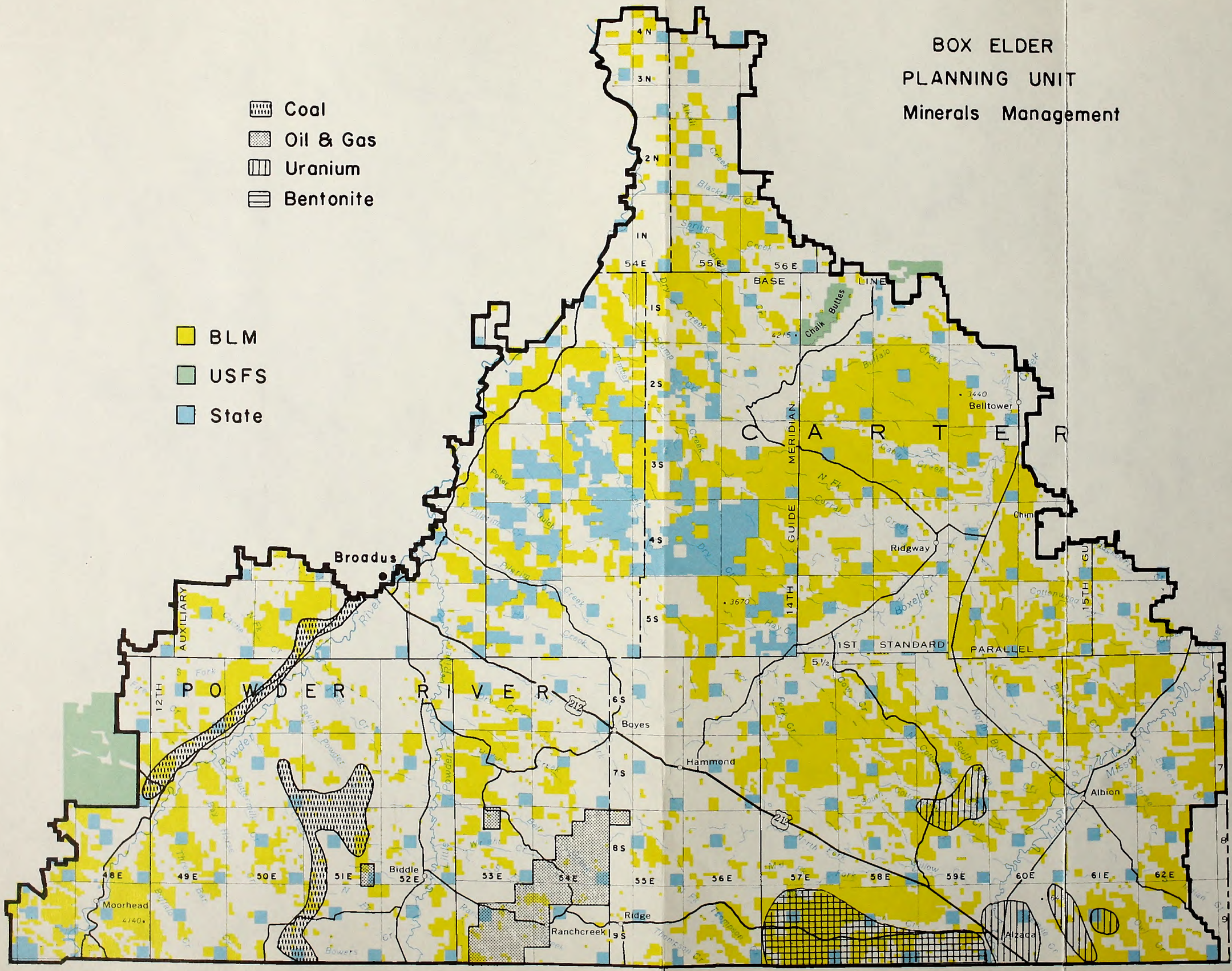
	Public Lands	%	Other	%
Surface	718,700	28.6	1,790,600	71.4
Subsurface	1,200,000*	48.0	1,300,000*	52.0

*This is an estimate since subsurface acreages have not been counted.

BOX ELDER PLANNING UNIT
Minerals Management

Coal
Oil & Gas
Uranium
Bentonite

BLM
USFS
State



Resources Administered by BLM

A. Lands Program (Background)

BLM's lands program is designed to meet public needs for land and to support public land management programs.

Little urban development has occurred. The community of Broadus, located just outside of the planning unit to the west, has a population of 799 (1970 Census) and is the largest town in the area. Small communities within the planning unit include Moorhead, Biddle, Boyes, Hammond, Alzada, Bell Creek, and Albion.

Although only a limited acreage is involved, crop production is an important activity and is essential to all year long ranch operations.

The BLM administers approximately 28.6% of the surface estate in the planning unit. Although acreages have not been counted, it is estimated 50% of the mineral estate is administered by BLM.

There have been numerous rights-of-way issued in the Bell Creek area in the south-central portion of the planning unit. Most of these are in support of the local petroleum industry such as pipelines, pumping plants, and storage facilities. There have been relatively few rights-of-way issues in the remainder of the planning unit.

Lands Resource Allocation Decisions

1. Where possible, BLM activities will encourage residential and commercial expansion within the unit's established townsites.

2. Local planning and zoning authorities will be encouraged in controlling and guiding urban development and use of outlying areas.

3. Land needs will be considered for any residential and commercial expansion in association with the unit's industrial (mining) or other resource development.

4. Transfer of public lands to private ownership in outlying areas will be restricted until local planning and zoning is complete.

5. Where appropriate, public lands will be made available to satisfy bona fide federal, state, and local government public purpose needs.

6. Whenever possible, land tenure adjustments will be accomplished through exchange.

7. Adequate signing and access acquisition will be provided for public lands.

8. Demands for rights-of-way will be satisfied with a minimum of disturbance to other resources.

BOX ELDER PLANNING UNIT
Range Management

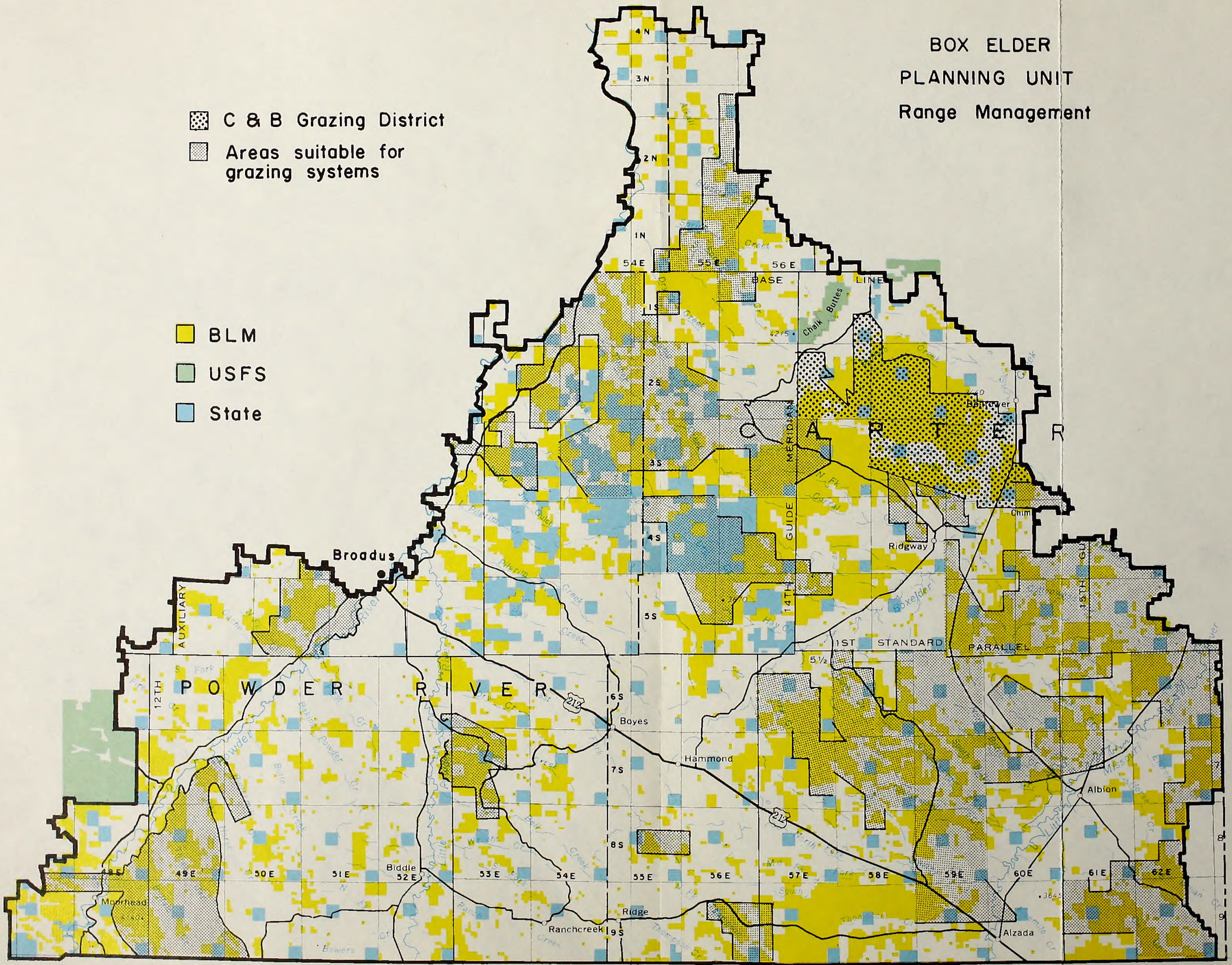
C & B Grazing District

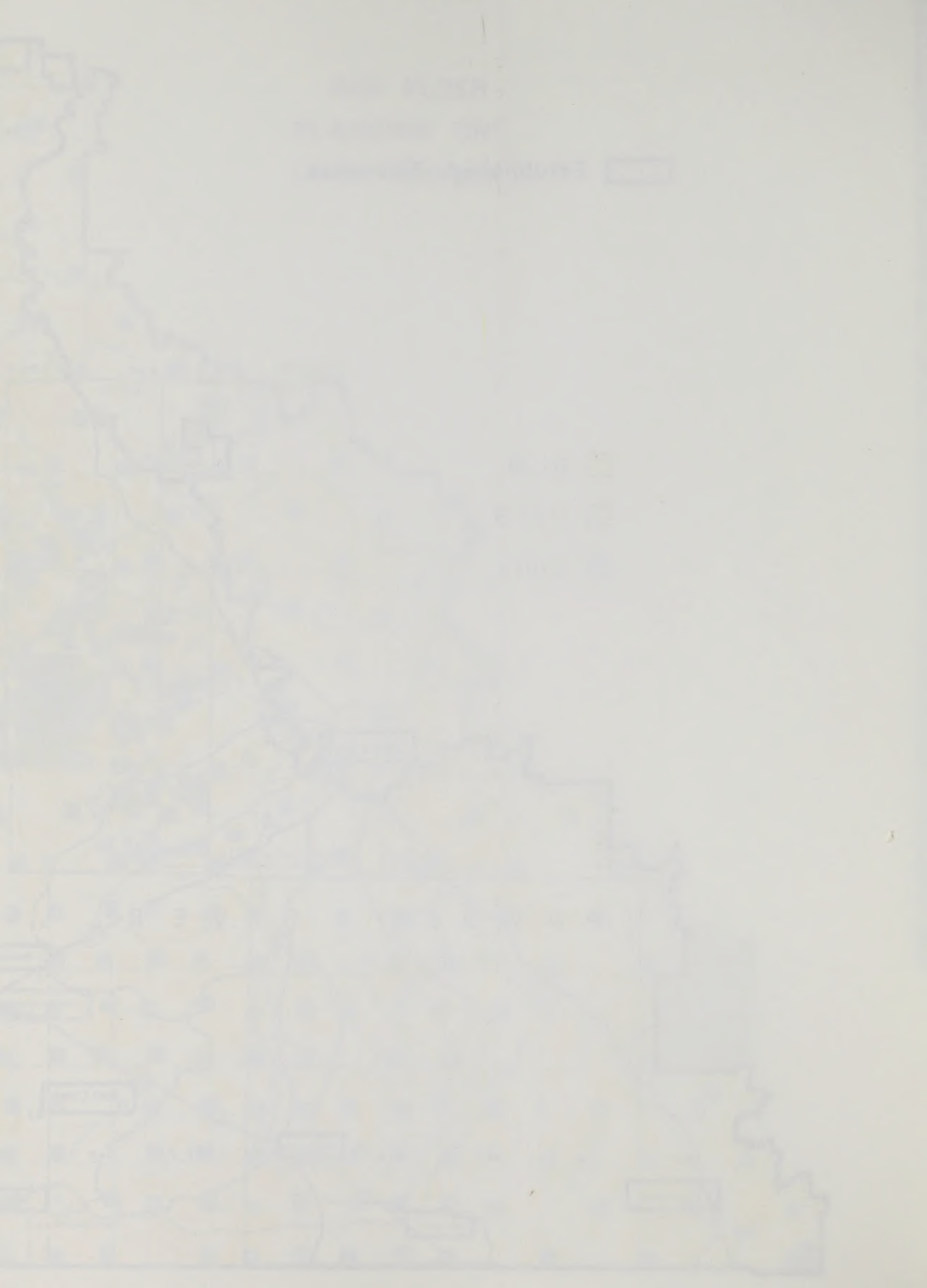
Areas suitable for grazing systems

BLM

USFS

State





B. Minerals Program (Background)

BLM's mineral program includes economic analysis, appraisal, and development of the mineral resource by lease, license, and permit coordination of exploration and mining activities with other land uses. Provisions for protection of the environment and rehabilitation of damage to mined lands are also integral to the problem.

Coal

All strippable coal deposits identified in the planning unit are in the Tongue River member of the Fort Union Formation. Strippable coal reserves and resources within the Box Elder Planning Unit were identified in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. The coal resource, based on current economic conditions, is estimated at 1.3 billion tons. Total strippable area is approximately 36,000 acres or 1.4% of the planning unit area.

The above figures are estimates based on geologic inference and extrapolation of drill hole data existing at the time of the study. Sufficient drilling has not been conducted to allow calculation of exact coal reserves or minimum bid determinations for leasing.

The planning unit is divided into three coal resource areas. These are East Moorhead, Broadus, and Fire Gulch. Table 1 (page 11) shows the breakdown of each area into coal field and includes reserve figures and other pertinent data.

There are no operating strip mines in the planning unit.

Table 1

Deposit	Bed	Tons/Acre	Acres Total Field	Reserves Total Field	Acres Planning Unit	Reserves Planning Unit	Federal Acres Planning Unit	Federal Reserves Planning Unit	Federal Acres Federal Land	Federal Reserves Federal Land	Composition		
				Million Tons		Million Tons		Million Tons		Million Tons	Ash %	Sulfur %	BTU
E. Moorhead	"T" or Cache 10'-26'	33,756	15,559	525.21	15,559	525.21	14,100	475.96	1,510	50.97	6.2	.59	7,120
	Indicated		1,817	61.35	1,817	61.35	1,433	48.37	640	21.6			
Broadus	Broadus 10'	19,340	22,016	425.8	13,400	259.16	11,148	215.6	3,738	72.3	7.05	.3	6,885
	Indicated		8,730	168.83	8,730	168.83	7,143	138.14	1,155	22.3			
Fire Gulch	Cook 20'	39,674	8,486	336.69	6,920	274.54	6,470	256.69	340	13.49	3.89	.35	7,740
	Pawnee 10'										6.0	.2	7,650 (PR 172)
Sonnette (Indicated)	Pawnee	35,401	4,070	144.0	3,635	128.69	3,814	135.1	666	23.58	7.27	.32	7,199
Known			46,061	1,287.70	35,879	1,058.91	31,718	948.25	5,588	136.76			
Indicated			14,617	374.18	14,182	358.87	12,390	321.51	2,461	67.48			
TOTAL			60,678	1,661.88	50,061	1,417.78	44,108	1,269.76	8,049	204.24			

Oil and Gas

The entire planning unit is considered prospectively valuable for oil and gas. Presently, there are four separate oil and gas fields within the unit. These are the Ranch Creek-Bell Creek field, the Wright Creek field, the Leary field, and the Rough Creek field. As of July 1974, there were 232 producing oil wells and 3 shut-in gas wells in these fields.

The Bell Creek field produced the only gas with a cumulative total of 10,455,169 million cubic feet, as of January 1974. For oil production figures, see Table 2 on page

The discovery of oil and gas in the planning unit has been a great boost to the local economy, providing employment and revenue for the local government. A post office, grocery store, community hall, and warehouse are located in Bell Creek. The town also has a school with 50-70 primary and elementary students. Bell Creek's present population is approximately 200.

Bentonite

Bentonite has been mined from the unit for many years. The first plant to process bentonite in the Black Hills area was built in 1934 at Belle Fourche, South Dakota. In 1974, a plant was built by International Lead Company near Colony, Wyoming. The location of the plant resulted in the utilization of bentonite in the Alzada, Montana area. International Mineral and Chemical Company and Federal Bentonite Company have built plants near the International Lead plant. American Colloid Company also has a plant in Belle Fourche. All four plants are within reasonable hauling distance from the unit's bentonite deposits.

Table 2

BOX ELDER PLANNING UNIT
Oil Production and Valuation

Field	No. of Producing Wells				Cumulative Production to Dec. 1973		Avg. Price Per Barrel	
	1971	1972	1973	1974	Barrels	Value	1971	1973
Bell Creek	313	301	243	225	59,529,635	$175,804,515	$3.16	$3.61
Leary	3	3	3	3	150,087	488,934	3.26	3.53
Wright Creek	5	5	4	4	142,701	432,473	3.09	3.39
Rough Creek	0	0	1	0	3,599	10,583	2.93	2.96

Production of taxable bentonite from the planning unit (Carter County) was 57,246 tons in 1960; 43,459 tons in 1970; and 45,103 tons in 1971. Bentonite production in the United States has maintained a slow but steady growth. About 2.5 million tons of bentonite are annually mined in the United States.

Uranium

It is estimated that eight tons of uranium were mined from the planning unit in the late 1950s. Except for this small experimental operation, uranium has not been mined in eastern Montana.

There are two geologic structures within the planning unit suspected of containing uranium deposits. These are the Arikane and Lakota sandstone formations. Numerous companies have been conducting exploratory searches for uranium within the Box Elder Planning Unit.

Sand, Gravel, Scoria

Most of the sand and gravel deposits within the planning unit are small, consisting of isolated terrace deposits and more recent alluvial deposits. Some of the known sand and gravel deposits have yet to be accurately mapped and their volume defined. Approximately 1.5 million tons have been mined up to 1970.

There are large quantities of scoria in the southwestern portion of the planning unit. Its present use is limited to road construction, but scoria has been used for railroad ballast, roofing material, and road construction.

Minerals Resource Allocation Decisions

1. Coal

   a. Consider the issuing of coal leases in the Broadus and Biddle Areas.

2. Oil and Gas

   a. Oil and gas exploration will be encouraged unit-wide and leases will be issued to allow development.

3. Bentonite

   a. Provide for surface management of areas covered by bentonite claims.

4. Uranium

   a. Encourage the orderly development of uranium.

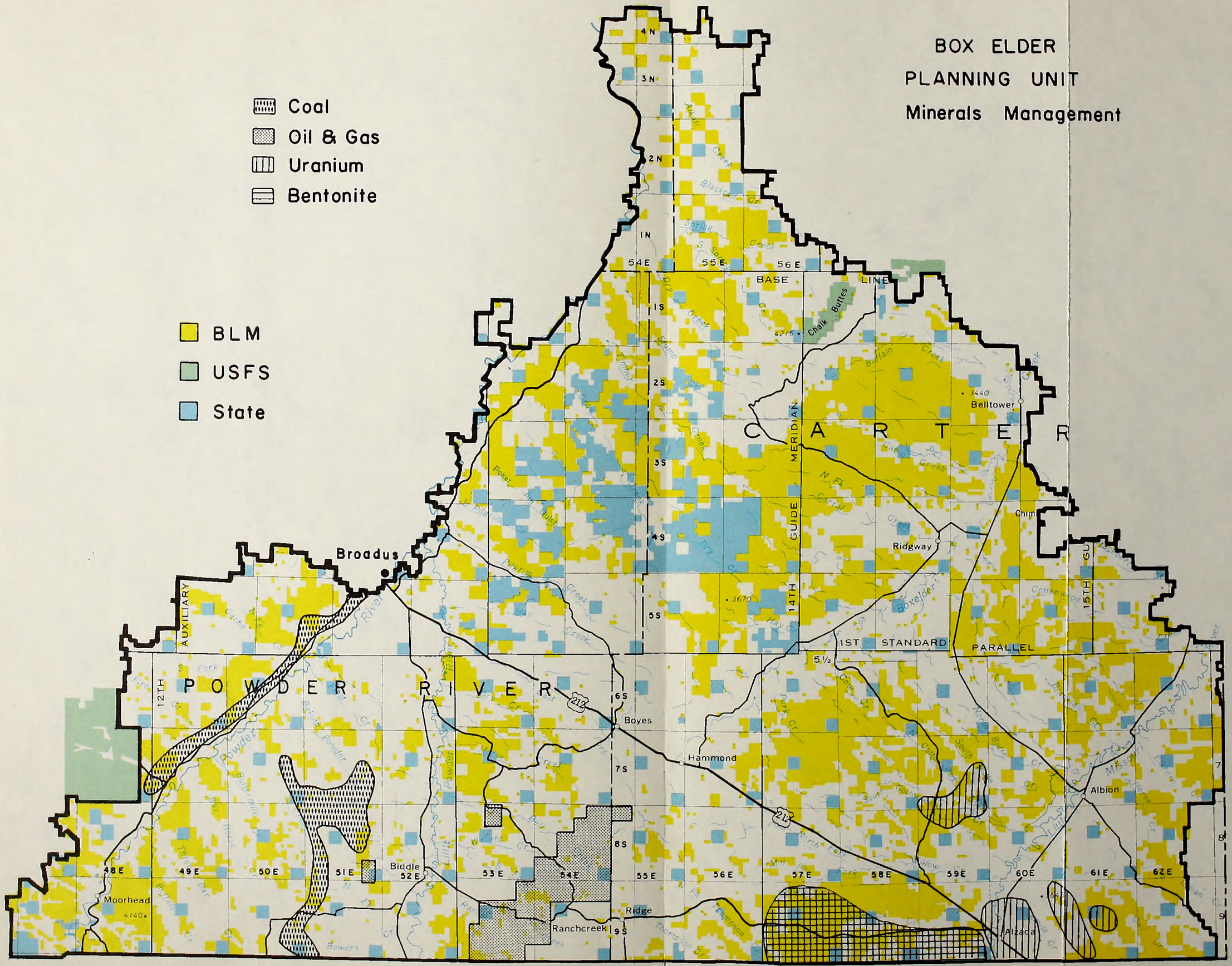
5. Sand, Gravel, Scoria

   a. Sites which can be feasibly developed will be designated, and community pits will be established where sufficient demand exists.

BOX ELDER
PLANNING UNIT
Minerals Management

Coal
Oil & Gas
Uranium
Bentonite

BLM
USFS
State



C. Timber Management (Background)

The Bureau-administered forest resource in the planning unit is essentially undeveloped. There are approximately 17,546 acres of commercial timber. The site index on all sites is low to extremely low because of the limited rainfall in the area on shallow, unfertile soils. According to the principles of sustained yield management, timber stands on the public lands in this planning unit lack the capability of management.

Major Recommendations for Timber Management Program

1. Maintain and/or protect the existing stands of Ponderosa Pine and Rocky Mountain Juniper for wildlife, recreation, watershed, and aesthetic values.

2. Allow commercial cutting of Rocky Mountain Juniper for posts and poles to the extent of stand-thinning improvement projects.

D. Range Management Program (Background)

Condition and Trend

The Missouri River Basin studies surveyed the lands within the planning unit to establish range conditions. This study used the ecological method of evaluating range condition by comparing undisturbed sites with those which have been utilized.

Parts of both the Little Missouri River drainage and Powder River drainage are within the Box Elder Planning Unit. Both of these drainages were generally rated as being in good condition.

Grazing Administration

The planning unit has 320 allotments, all administered under section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act. There is one Cooperative State Grazing District (C&B) within the planning unit. Licensed use of the federal range is 143,497 animal unit months (AUMs).

Intensive grazing management through the use of grazing systems has been implemented on 25 allotments.

Range Resource Allocation Decisions

1. A grazing system will be implemented on those allotments within the C&B Grazing District.

2. Grazing systems will be implemented on 72 additional allotments.

3. A sustained yield of livestock forage will be maintained on those allotments where a grazing system is not implemented.

4. The quantity and quality of livestock forage will be increased on those allotments with existing grazing systems.

BOX ELDER PLANNING UNIT
Range Management

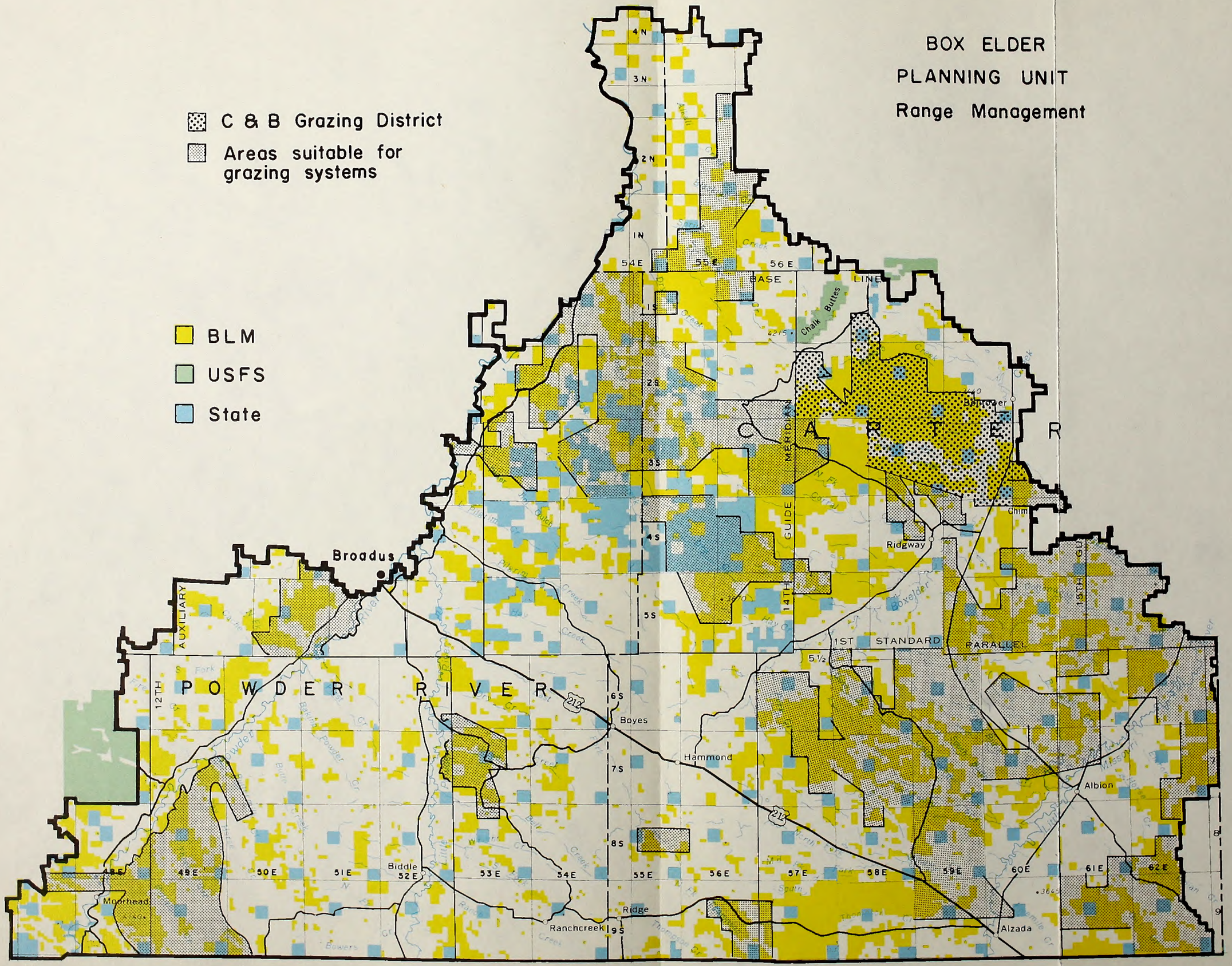
C & B Grazing District

Areas suitable for grazing systems

BLM

USFS

State



E. Watershed Program (Background)

The Bureau's watershed conservation and development system assesses watershed conditions and needs and identifies management practices to solve watershed problems.

Based on a watershed inventory, the following erosion condition classes were identified for public lands within the planning unit:

EROSION CONDITION CLASS ON PUBLIC LANDS

Stable	Slight	Moderate	Critical	Severe
55,470 acres	156,170 acres	56,570 acres	65,340 acres	0 acres

Watersheds in this area are relatively stable. The susceptibility of the land to accelerated erosion from man's activities is the single most important factor affecting watershed management.

The majority of range improvements such as stock dams and wells have been installed to facilitate livestock grazing. Few of these projects have been constructed specifically for watershed enhancement.

The watershed allocation decisions promote the maintenance of vegetative cover, stabilization of soil movement, and the increase of water infiltration. These objectives will be achieved through erosion control projects and the limitation of disturbance in fragile areas.

Watershed Resource Allocation Decisions

Unit-Wide

1. Ground cover will be maintained at a minimum of 60% on areas of 1-3% slope and a minimum of 70-80%

on areas of 4-10% slope to maximize high quality watershed conditions.

Vegetative Manipulation Areas, K-1

2. Yellow sweetclover will be aerial-seeded on steep shale soil areas to retard erosion.

Restricted Use Areas, K-4

3. Livestock grazing will be restricted on watersheds with high erosion classifications.

4. Off-road vehicle use will be confined to existing roads and trails.

Management Area, K-5

5. Fires will be managed to minimize surface damage on the north slopes of critical watershed areas.

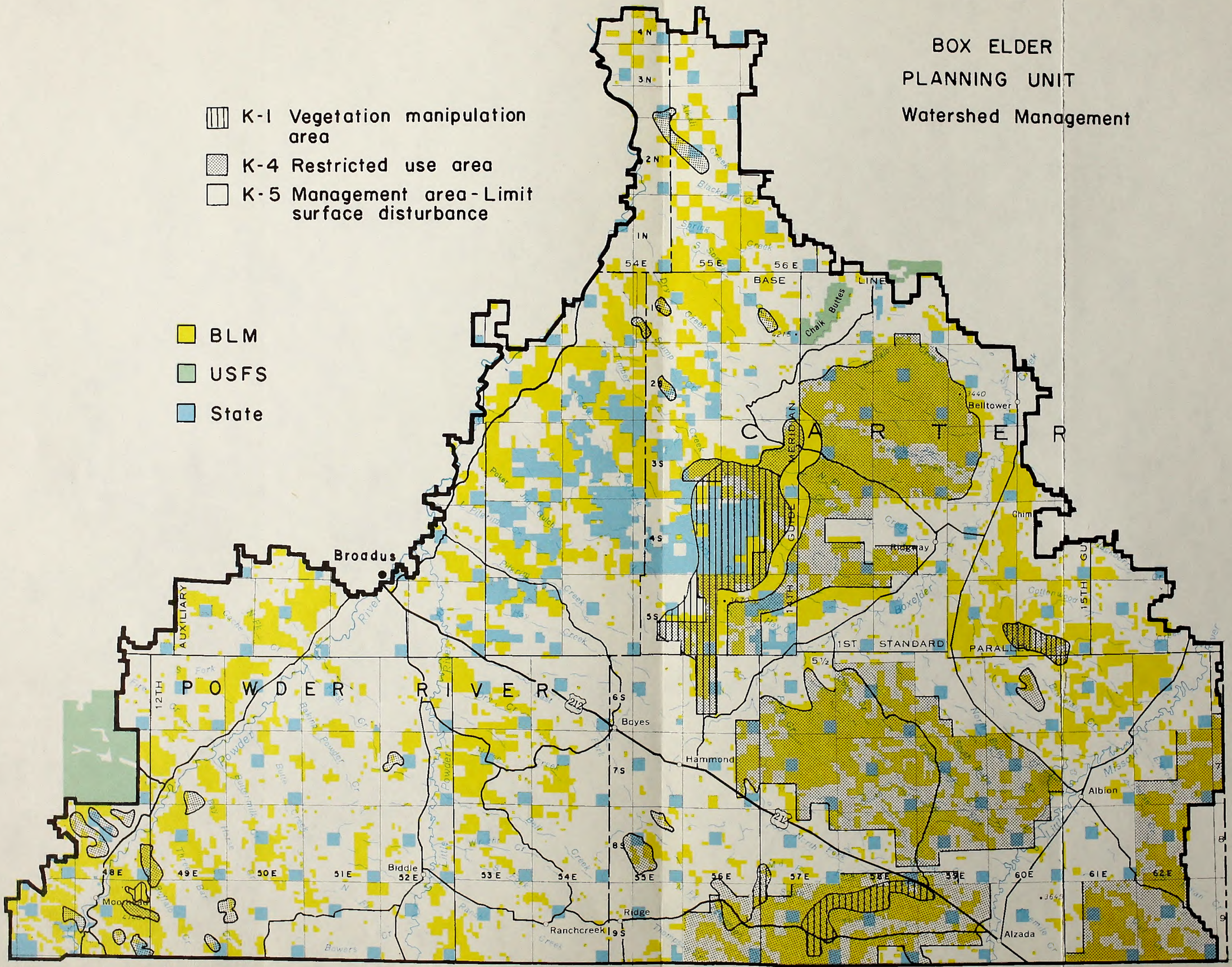
6. Mining activities and road developments will be managed to minimize surface disturbances.

7. Phases I and II of the Watershed Conservation and Development System will be completed on the largest consolidated units of public lands. This study will provide information pertaining to the effects of vegetation on the watershed.

BOX ELDER
PLANNING UNIT
Watershed Management

K-1 Vegetation manipulation area
K-4 Restricted use area
K-5 Management area - Limit surface disturbance

BLM
USFS
State



F. Wildlife Habitat Management Program (Background)

BLM's wildlife program promotes effective use and management of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats on the public lands by maintaining or improving food, cover, and living space.

The major use of wildlife in the Box Elder Planning Unit is recreational hunting with more than 8,000 visitor days use annually (a visitor day is defined as the participation of one person in a specific activity during any part of a 24-hour period). Secondary activities related to wildlife include fishing, trapping predator hunting, bird watching, and wildlife photography.

The Box Elder Planning Unit includes habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Approximately 1.5 million acres of mule deer habitat exist throughout the planning unit.

White-tailed deer habitat (approximately 166,000 acres) exists primarily along the wooded banks of Box Elder Creek, Powder River, and the Little Missouri River. Riverbank vegetation also provides important habitat for non-game mammals, birds, and reptiles. Sagebrush-grasslands provide approximately 800,000 acres of excellent antelope habitat and provide sage grouse with breeding grounds and nesting sites. Turkeys exist along the banks of major waterways adjacent to farmland and in the higher forested areas.

Sharp-tailed grouse and Hungarian partridge are found scattered throughout the planning unit in grassland communities. Waterfowl, primarily puddle ducks, utilize many of the reservoirs for nesting and brooding. Birds of

prey are common and several species nest within the planning unit. Predators, particularly coyotes, are common and are of economic concern to local ranchers when they prey on livestock.

A few black-tailed prairie dog towns exist in the planning unit. The total acreage occupied by these towns is presently unknown. The dog towns represent potential habitat for the endangered black-footed ferret. The last ferret sighting in this area was reported near Alzada in 1953.

Warm water fisheries include the Powder River, Little Powder River, Box Elder Creek, and the Little Missouri River. Bullhead, catfish, and goldeneye are the major fish species in these drainages. Trout, pike, and bass are stocked periodically in a few stockwater reservoirs.

Wildlife Resource Allocation Decisions

Aquatic Habitat-Expansion (Unit-Wide)

1. All new reservoirs will be constructed with a minimum surface of three acre feet and a depth of 12 feet to provide habitat for waterfowl and game fish. Where feasible, islands will be built in existing and new reservoirs to create waterfowl nesting habitat.

2. Vegetation around water impoundments will be managed to maintain a desirable cover of perennial grasses and riparian flora for waterfowl and shorebird habitat.

3. Known rookeries will be preserved and protected from disturbance.

Terrestrial Habitat Management (Unit-Wide)

4. Vegetation will be managed to increase present densities and vigor of key browse species for prong-horn antelope and deer.

5. Vegetation will be managed to increase the density of forbs on antelope range.

6. Meadows will be managed for maximum forb production for upland game birds.

7. Birds of prey nesting areas and potential nest sites will be protected from destruction and disturbance during the nesting season.

8. Intensive inventories of prairie dog towns will be conducted to evaluate the presence of the black-footed ferret.

9. Black-tailed prairie dog towns will be managed for public benefit including hunting, trapping, and photography. Authorized control programs will be initiated only when the hazard to livestock and game animals justifies such action.

Terrestrial Habitat Management

Mule Deer Habitat

11. The Ponderosa Pine-Rocky Mountain Juniper community will be managed to maintain mule deer habitat.

White-tailed Deer Habitat

12. Streambank vegetation and brushy draws will be managed to maintain forage and cover requirements for white-tailed deer.

Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat

13. Grasslands will be managed to promote an abundant residual perennial grass cover and dense tree-shrub communities will be maintained to provide forage and cover requirements for sharp-tailed grouse.

Sage Grouse Habitat

14. Sagebrush-grasslands will be managed to maintain a minimum 15% canopy cover of big sagebrush and an abundant perennial grass cover for sage grouse.

Turkey Habitat

15. The Ponderosa Pine vegetation type will be maintained and the perennial grass understories will be managed to promote forage and cover requirements for turkeys.

Antelope Habitat

16. All livestock fences will be constructed and maintained to permit the passage of pronghorn antelope.

Lone Tree Habitat Management Area

17. A habitat management plan will be prepared for the Lone Tree area to maintain and enhance wildlife habitat for a diversity of species.

BOX ELDER
PLANNING UNIT
Wildlife Management

Lone Tree habitat management area

Turkey habitat

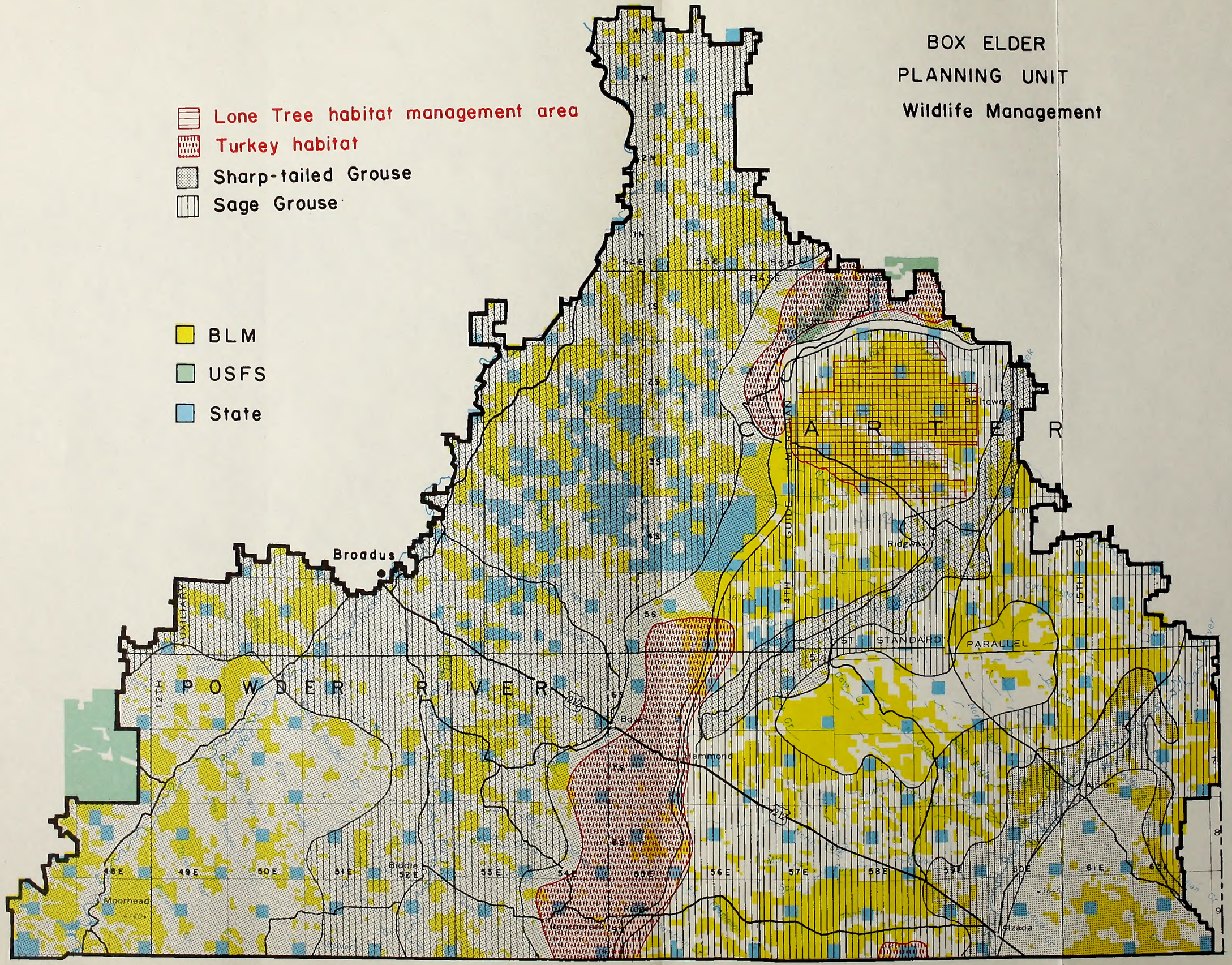
Sharp-tailed Grouse

Sage Grouse

BLM

USFS

State

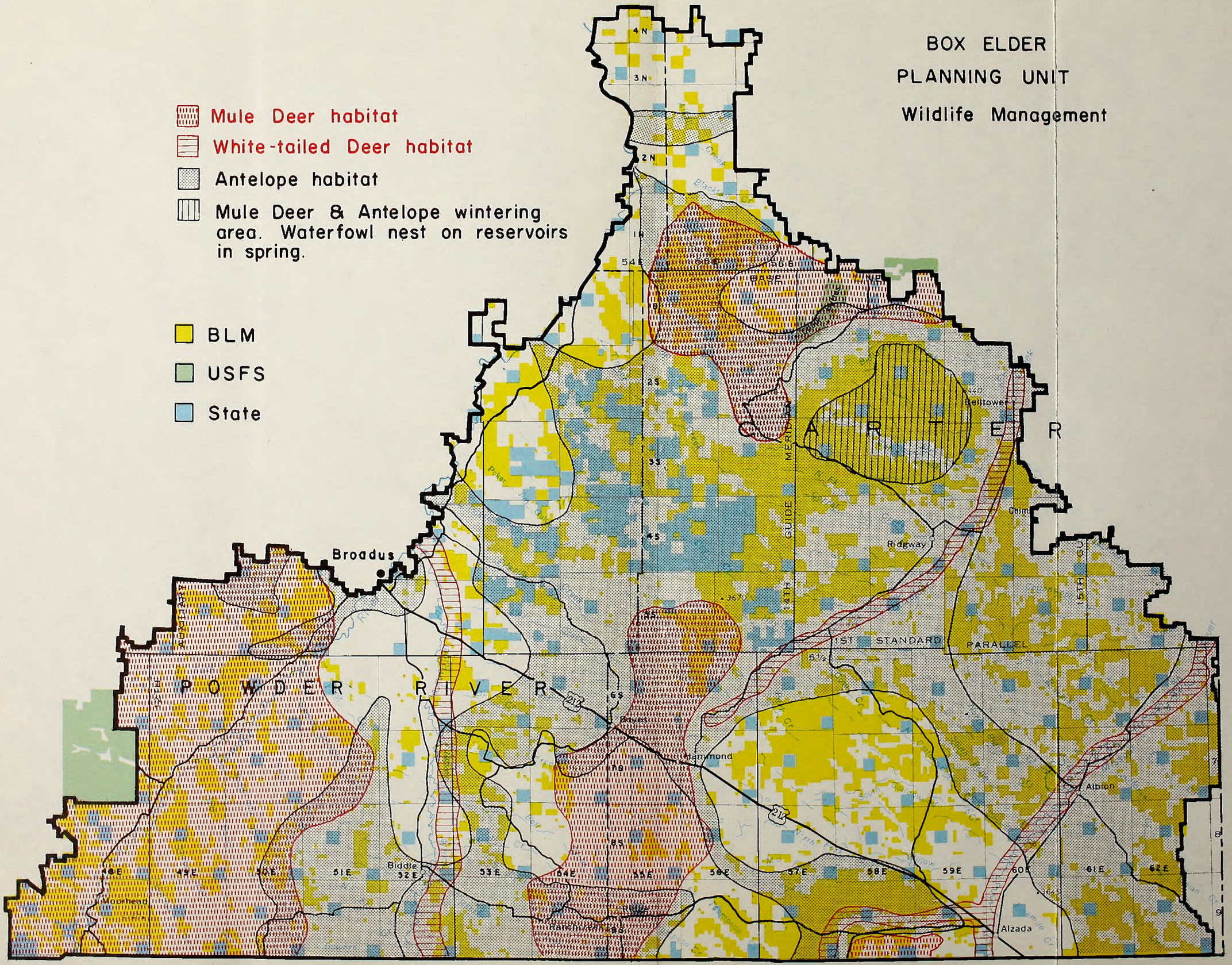


BOX ELDER PLANNING UNIT

Wildlife Management

- Mule Deer habitat
- White-tailed Deer habitat
- Antelope habitat
- Mule Deer & Antelope wintering area. Waterfowl nest on reservoirs in spring.

- BLM
- USFS
- State



G. Recreation Program (Background)

There is very little data available concerning recreation use on the public lands in the planning unit. The remoteness of the area from major population centers discourages this use. Hunting is basically the only recreational use of the planning unit area.

Visual and cultural resources constitute valuable portions of the recreation resource in the unit. Of prime importance are the Finger Buttes, an unusual area of rock sculpturing northwest of Albion. Cultural features in the unit include the Two Moons Village Fight, the Texas or Northern Trail, and the Deadwood Road.

The relatively minor recreational use and little or no expressed demand has resulted in management placing a low priority on the recreation resource. A comprehensive inventory and evalation of recreation values and uses is needed to accurately determine recreation management goals and objectives.

Resource Allocation Decisions

1. The Finger Buttes will be protected from surface disturbing activities (R-1)

2. Scenic values characterized by rugged topography will be maintained (R-2).

3. Open space values will be preserved in areas designated as (R-3).

4. Recreation management for the entire unit will be directed toward maintaining a quality environment for general type recreation.

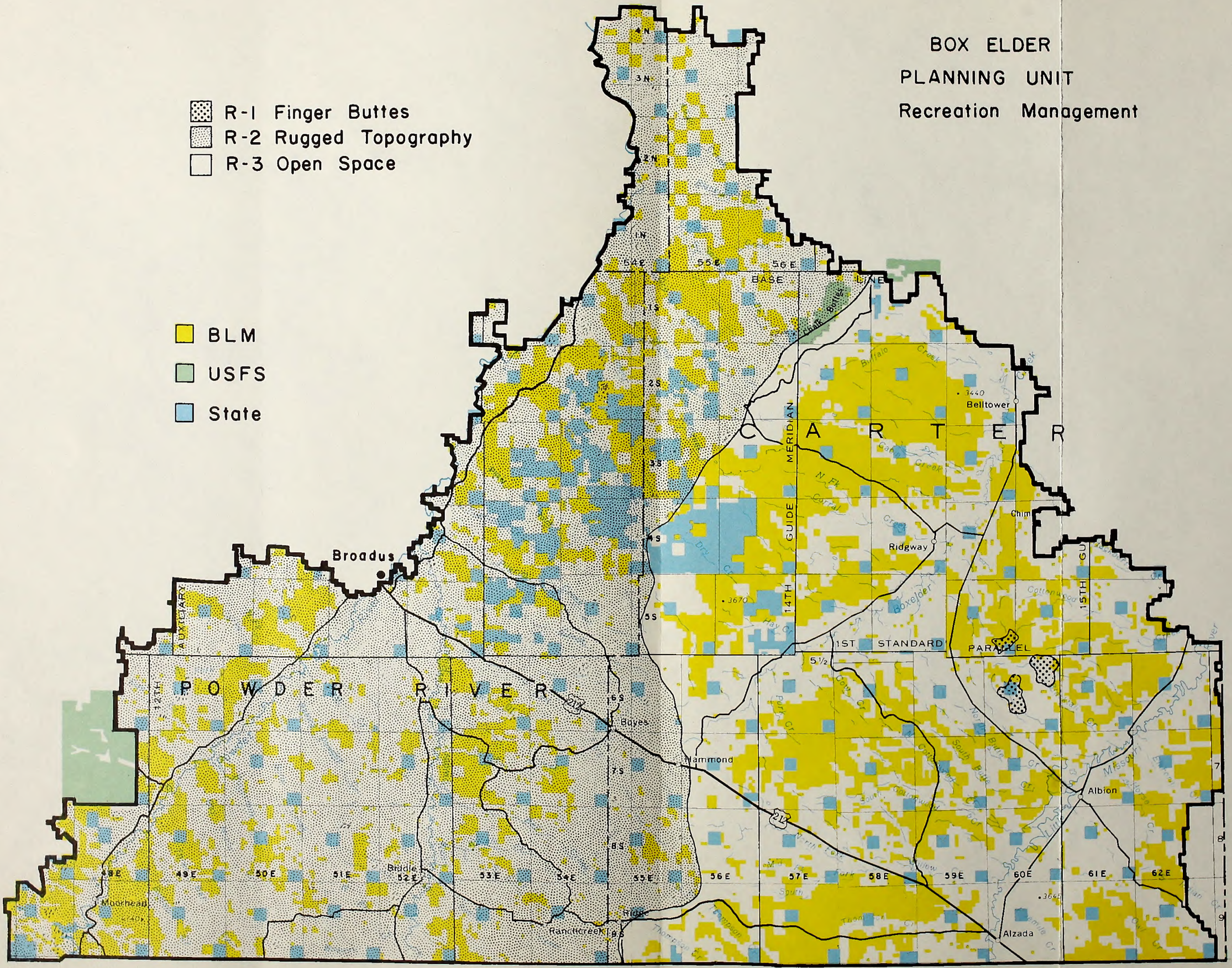
5. Interpretive signs will be constructed to emphasize unique cultural, geological, and ecological areas.

6. Legal and/or physical access will be provided to public lands where feasible.

BOX ELDER
PLANNING UNIT
Recreation Management

- R-1 Finger Buttes
- R-2 Rugged Topography
- R-3 Open Space

- BLM
- USFS
- State



Public Involvement in the Planning Process

A 1973 brochure containing preliminary multiple use recommendations was mailed to involved persons and organizations. In addition, meetings were held in June 1973 in Broadus, Ekalaka, and Alzada. Forty persons attended these meetings and seventeen oral comments were received and documented.

Eight persons and one government agency chose to put their remarks in writing on the preliminary multiple use recommendations. A summary of statements made both at the public meetings and through correspondence is presented below.

Lands

BLM sale of small tracts of land was encouraged by several local residents. One resident desired that state selection of public lands proceed in his immediate area. Another person exhibited concern toward any concept of forced land exchanges.

Wildlife

The presence of black-footed ferrets and prairie dogs in particular areas was pointed out by individuals responding to the preliminary recommendations. Several local residents requested that predator control activities be increased in the unit. Others desired the restriction/elimination of prairie dogs and white-tailed deer.

Recreation

Preventing recreational excess was the single most discussed topic in the public meetings and in the correspondence. Limitations on off-road vehicle use, hunting, and camping were also supported by local residents.

Watershed

Several sources suggested that road use be limited in areas of high erodability. Support was received for the BLM range improvement programs.

Livestock

One respondent supported additional funding of range improvements.

Minerals

Several persons responded that mineral exploration and production should be opened up unit-wide without restrictions.

Montana BLM Organization

The Bureau's work in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota is administered from a State Office headquaters located in Billings, Montana. Within these three states, the 8.4 million surface acres and 55 million* subsurface areas of public lands are further divided administratively into four districts with District Offices in Butte, Lewistown, and Miles City; and Dickinson, North Dakota. Each District is divided into Resource Areas to facilitate day to day administration and long term management on a multiple use basis.

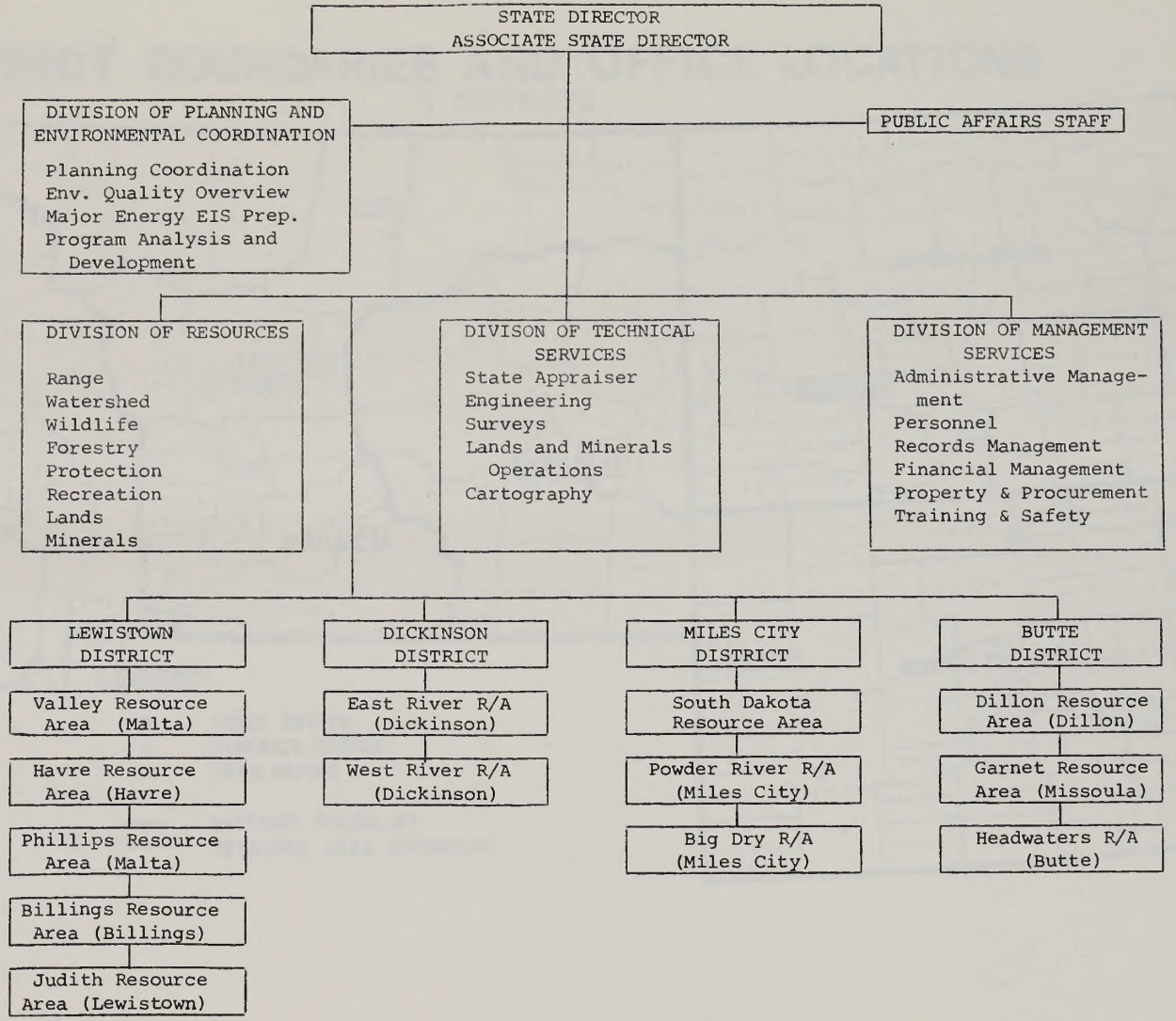
The surface and subsurface acreages administered by the four BLM Districts are noted in the table below:

Acreage Statistics
Montana BLM Organization

District	Surface Ownership BLM	Surface Ownership Other	Subsurface Ownership BLM	Subsurface Ownership Other	Total All Ownership
Butte	1,334,000	33,456,400	2,285,345	32,505,054	34,790,400
Lewistown	3,884,701	33,167,885	8,177,983	28,879,603	37,057,586
Miles City					
Montana	2,785,299	17,363,119	10,910,741	9,237,677	20,148,418
S. Dakota	276,000	48,335,200	800,000	47,811,200	48,611,200
Dickinson	68,000	44,266,720	4,968,000	39,366,720	44,334,720

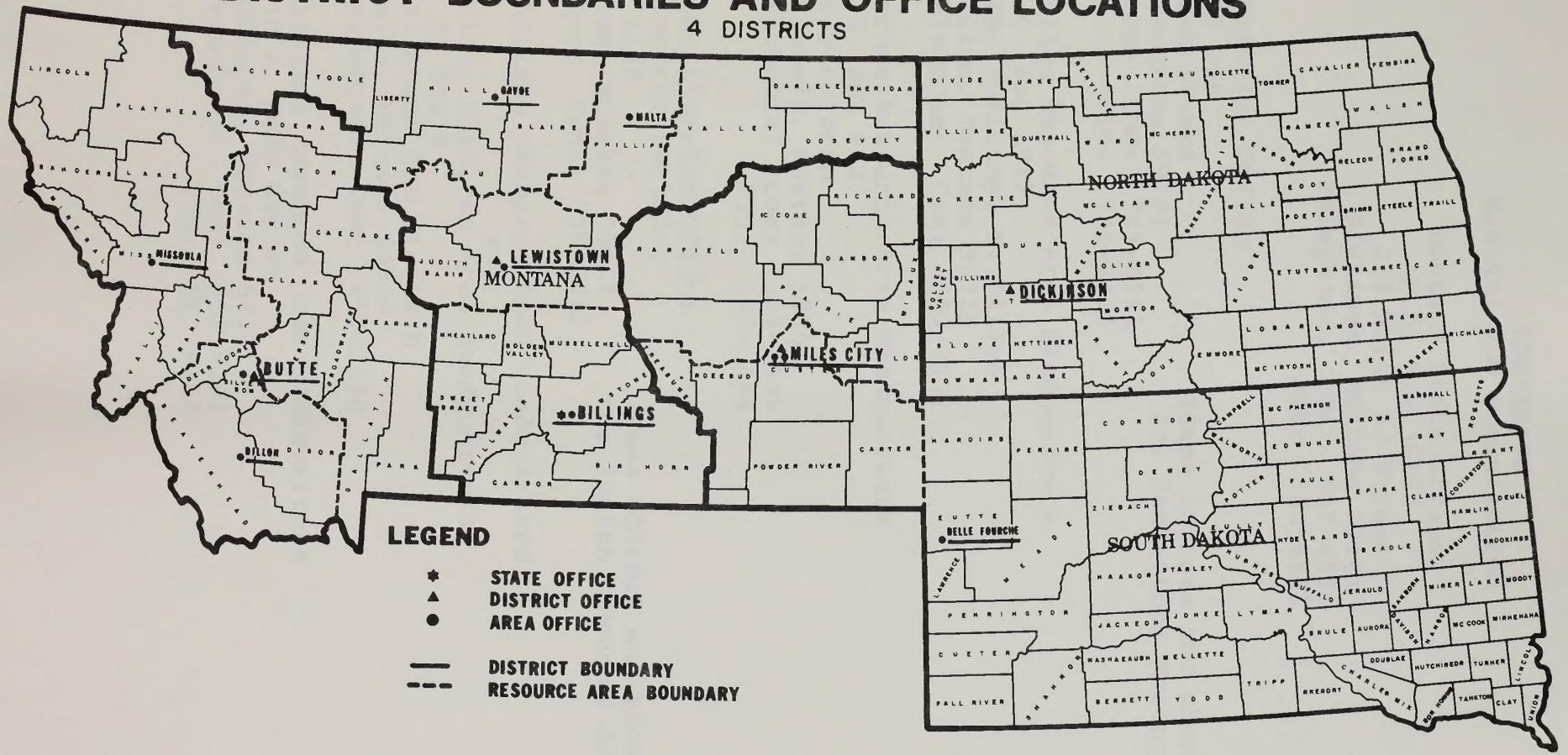
*BLM directly administers approximately 28 million acres of mineral estate and is the leasing agent for an additional 27 million acres of land administered by other federal agencies.

ORGANIZATION CHART
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - MONTANA



DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND OFFICE LOCATIONS

4 DISTRICTS



ADDRESSES
Montana BLM Organization

Montana State Office
P.O. Box 30157
222 North 32 Street
Billings, Montana 59101
Telephone: Com: 657-6561
FTS: 585-6561

Butte District Office
P.O. Box 308
220 North Alaska
Butte, Montana 59701
Telephone: Com: 723-6561
FTS: 585-2416

(Same address and phone number for Headwaters Resource Area)

Dillon Resource Area Headquarters
P.O. Box 1048
Ibey Building, N. Dillon
Dillon, Montana 59725
Telephone: Com: 683-2337

Garnet Resource Area Headquarters
P.O. Box 4427
1819 Holborn
Missoula, Montana 59801
Telephone: Com: 329-3686
FTS: 585-3686

Lewistown District Office
Bank Electric Building
Drawer 1160
Lewistown, Montana 59457
Telephone: Com: 538-7461

(Same address and phone number for Judith Resource Area)

Phillips Resource Area Headquarters
and
Valley Resource Area Headquarters
P.O. Box B
501 South 2nd Street E
Malta, Montana 59538
Telephone: Com: 654-1240

Billings Resource Area Headquarters
810 E. Main Street
Billings, Montana 59101
Telephone: Com: 657-6262
FTS: 585-6262

Havre Resource Area Headquarters
Post Office Building
Drawer 911
Havre, Montana 59501
Telephone: Com: 265-5891

Miles City District Office
P.O. Box 940
West of Miles City
Miles City, Montana 59301
Telephone: Com: 232-4331

(Same address and phone number for Powder River and Big Dry Resource Areas)

South Dakota Resource Area Headquarters
310 Roundup Street
Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717
Telephone: Com: 892-2526

Dickinson District Office
P.O. Box 1229
Pulver Hall
Dickinson, North Dakota 58601
Telephone: Com: 225-9148

Form 1279-3
(June 1984)

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